

## Carol Coles

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**From:** Carol Coles  
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**Subject:** CITY OF NORMAN TO PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN OPERATION OKLAHOMA

City of Norman  
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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### CITY OF NORMAN TO PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN OPERATION OKLAHOMA

In naming this the Year of the Vietnam Veteran, Governor Brad Henry has led our state in a long-overdue recognition of the contributions of our Vietnam veterans. This initiative has been named Operation Oklahoma, and Norman will play a crucial role.

A public meeting on Monday, May 3, at 6:30 PM at Norman City Hall marks a critical step in organizing our community to plan and assist with the Fourth of July festivities of Operation Oklahoma which will be centered in Norman. Hundreds of volunteers will be needed to help with this effort, and the public meeting marks the kick-off for this effort.

“Norman is honored to be selected as the primary venue for hosting Operation Oklahoma’s celebrations on the Fourth of July and honoring our Vietnam War veterans,” announced Mayor Cindy Rosenthal. “On the Fourth of July, our community will be in the spotlight of hosting the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall, a scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial, and welcoming dignitaries, veterans and their families from all across the state.”

To lead the Norman effort, Mayor Rosenthal appointed Councilmember Al Atkins and retired Major General Brad Gambill to co-chair an organizing committee. Other committee members include Major General Myles Deering and Brigadier General Mike McCormack with the Oklahoma National Guard; Jeremy Sparks and Mike Skolaut with the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall; John Davenport with Primrose Funeral Home; Jud Foster, Bill Ulch and Jeff Hill with the City of Norman; LTC Kennan Horn and Barb McClurkin from the University of Oklahoma; Joe King and Angie Drury from the Norman Chamber of Commerce; former City Councilmember David Hopper; Russ McReynolds, Norman Regional Hospital Board; Ron Mays from the City of Piedmont and Curtis McCarty, homebuilder.

Leading the meeting on Monday will be Major General Myles L. Deering, Adjutant General of the Oklahoma National Guard, who is leading the state’s efforts with respect to Operation Oklahoma. As the Adjutant General, Major General Deering serves as the military advisor to the Governor and commands the Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard. General Deering commanded the Oklahoma National Guard’s Joint Task Force following the devastating hurricanes of Katrina and Rita in September 2005. He also led his Oklahoma National Guard troops through two tours in Baghdad, Iraq. General Deering was appointed as Adjutant General by the Governor in February 2009.

Major General Deering will provide an overview of the statewide activities planned for Operation Oklahoma at Monday’s meeting. Jeremy Sparks from Dignity will present the Memorial Wall committee activities and discuss the options that citizens can volunteer for to be involved with this important event.

“We are very excited that General Deering and Governor Henry have looked to Norman to help honor our Vietnam veterans and look forward to a great turnout from our citizens to help with this celebration,” Mayor Rosenthal said.